

SENATE, No. 630

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 215th LEGISLATURE

PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2012 SESSION

Sponsored by:

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

SYNOPSIS

Requires sex offender's tier designation to be completed and reviewed by the court prior to release from incarceration.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Introduced Pending Technical Review by Legislative Counsel



1 AN ACT concerning sex offenders and amending P.L.1994, c.128.

2

3 **BE IT ENACTED** by the Senate and General Assembly of the State
4 of New Jersey:

5

6 1. Section 3 of P.L.1994, c.128 (C.2C:7-8) is amended to read
7 as follows:

8 3. a. After consultation with members of the advisory council
9 established pursuant to section 6 of this act and within 60 days of
10 the effective date, the Attorney General shall promulgate guidelines
11 and procedures for the notification required pursuant to the
12 provisions of this act. The guidelines shall identify factors relevant
13 to risk of re-offense and shall provide for three levels of notification
14 depending upon the degree of the risk of re-offense.

15 b. Factors relevant to risk of re-offense shall include, but not be
16 limited to, the following:

17 (1) Conditions of release that minimize risk of re-offense,
18 including but not limited to whether the offender is under
19 supervision of probation or parole **【;】** or receiving counseling,
20 therapy or treatment **【;** or residing in a home situation that provides
21 guidance and supervision**】**;

22 (2) Physical conditions that minimize risk of re-offense,
23 including but not limited to advanced age or debilitating illness;

24 (3) Criminal history factors indicative of high risk of re-offense,
25 including:

26 (a) Whether the offender's conduct was found to be
27 characterized by repetitive and compulsive behavior;

28 (b) Whether the offender served the maximum term;

29 (c) Whether the offender committed the sex offense against a
30 child;

31 (4) Other criminal history factors to be considered in
32 determining risk, including:

33 (a) The relationship between the offender and the victim;

34 (b) Whether the offense involved the use of a weapon, violence,
35 or infliction of serious bodily injury;

36 (c) The number, date and nature of prior offenses;

37 (5) Whether psychological or psychiatric profiles indicate a risk
38 of recidivism;

39 (6) The offender's response to treatment;

40 (7) Recent behavior, including behavior while confined or while
41 under supervision in the community as well as behavior in the
42 community following service of sentence; and

43 (8) Recent threats against persons or expressions of intent to
44 commit additional crimes.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **【thus】 in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.**

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 c. The **【regulations】** guidelines shall provide for three levels of
2 notification depending upon the risk of re-offense by the offender as
3 follows:

4 (1) If risk of re-offense is low, law enforcement agencies likely
5 to encounter the person registered shall be notified;

6 (2) If risk of re-offense is moderate, organizations in the
7 community including schools, religious and youth organizations
8 shall be notified in accordance with the Attorney General's
9 guidelines, in addition to the notice required by paragraph (1) of
10 this subsection;

11 (3) If risk of re-offense is high, the public shall be notified
12 through means in accordance with the Attorney General's guidelines
13 designed to reach members of the public likely to encounter the
14 person registered, in addition to the notice required by paragraphs
15 (1) and (2) of this subsection.

16 d. In order to promote uniform application of the notification
17 guidelines required by this section, the Attorney General shall
18 develop procedures for evaluation of the risk of re-offense and
19 implementation of community notification. These procedures shall
20 require, but not be limited to, the following:

21 (1) The county prosecutor of the county where the **【person】**
22 offender was convicted and the county prosecutor of the county
23 where the **【registered person】** offender will reside, together with
24 any law enforcement officials that either deems appropriate, shall
25 assess the risk of re-offense by the **【registered person】** offender
26 prior to the offender's release from incarceration. The court shall
27 complete its review of the prosecutor's assessment and determine
28 the plan for notification prior to the offender's release from
29 incarceration;

30 (2) The county prosecutor of the county in which the **【registered**
31 **person】** offender will reside, after consultation with local law
32 enforcement officials, shall determine the means of providing
33 notification.

34 e. The Attorney General's guidelines shall provide for the
35 manner in which records of notification provided pursuant to this
36 act shall be maintained and disclosed.

37 (cf: P.L.1994, c.128, s.3)

38

39 2. This act shall take effect on first day of the third month after
40 enactment.

41

42

43

STATEMENT

44

45 Under the provisions of this bill, county prosecutors are required
46 to determine a sex offender's risk of re-offense, or tier, prior to the
47 inmate's release from incarceration. The bill also requires the court

S630 T. KEAN

4

1 to complete its review of the prosecutor's assessment and determine
2 the plan for notification prior to the offender's release from
3 incarceration. Currently, sex offenders may move into the
4 community prior to being tiered and the offender may reside in the
5 community for a period while his tier rating is being reviewed and a
6 notification plan developed.